

believe that such foreigner has entered the country without valid document(s) or has overstayed.

(b) and (c) There are no differences whatsoever with the Ministry of External Affairs with regard to the said Order. In so far as foreigners visiting the country to participate in seminars, etc. are concerned, they are covered by separate guidelines.

Need for Global look for Indian Textile Industry

*152. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to face the challenges of the rapidly changing world textiles scenario by stressing the need for Indian Textile Industry to consider itself as operating in a global market;

(b) if so, to what extent, the textile industry has changed its course for operating in a global market; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA):
(a) to (c) The Government is fully committed to face the challenges of globalisation by encouraging investments for modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry.

The National Textile Policy-2000 (NT×P-2000), provides an enabling environment to make the domestic textile industry strong enough to face growing global competition. De-reservation of the woven segment of readymade garment sector will allow the industry to achieve desired economies of scale. In order to implement the vision of the NT×P-2000, a "Textile Package" was announced in the Budget 2001-02 to encourage investment in the textile sector. Some of the important provisions of the "Textile Package" are:—

- (i) Customs duty has been reduced from 15% to 5% on 159 specified textile and garment machineries. In addition, 12 important items of machineries including shuttleless looms have also been exempted from additional excise duty.

[1st August 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

A programme has been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(ii) Assistance under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) providing for a reimbursement of 5% out of interest, is available to the textile industry for modernisation and upgradation. In addition, rate of depreciation allowance for machinery under TUFS has been raised to 50%.

(iii) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the Budget 2001-02 for the establishment of Apparel Parks for production and export of garments. Besides a provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made for the Scheme for improvement of critical infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

In addition, a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) with an outlay of about Rs. 600 crores has been launched by the Government to improve the productivity and quality of cotton required by the textile industry.

Appointment of Consultant in NIIRC

***153. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:**

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure of appointment of Consultant in the Office of National Human Rights Commission;

(b) how many Consultants have been appointed, retained or retired during last two years (1999 and 2000) alongwith reasons;

(c) whether it is a fact that experienced Consultants have been removed and some less qualified (without Law Degree) have been retained; and

(d) what steps are being taken to stop such irregularities in the Commission and punish the officials responsible for such things?